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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [AF](#) [SR](#)
SUBJECT: SERBIA: MUNITIONS PLANT EXPLOSION KILLS SEVEN

REF: IIR 6 904 0141 09; IIR 6 904 0149 09

Summary

1. (U) A September 3 explosion at a Serbian munitions factory killed seven. It is not yet known whether the explosion affected the portion c

Explosion Rocks Plant

2. (U) Late on September 3 four explosions tore through the underground ammunition production facilities of the "Prvi Partizan" ammunition fa
200 kilometers west of Belgrade. Seven workers (six women and one man) were killed by toxic fumes and thirteen were injured; according to pres

3. (U) Local authorities and Ministry of Interior Protection and Rescue assets, with the support of other municipal firefighting brigades of
Okrug, brought the resulting fire under control and prevented its spread to the nearby munitions storage warehouse. Both Minister of Interior
their condolences to the families of those affected. Minister of Defense Dragan Sutanovac also toured the plant on September 4. An investigat
is ongoing. Our contacts tell us that it is not yet known whether the Ministry of Defense will participate in the investigation. City officia

4. (SBU) Authorities have not yet announced which production line was the site of the explosion. Serbian industrialist Zoran Drakulic, who c
ammunition for civilian use.

Ammunition for Iraq and Afghanistan

5. (U) "Prvi Partizan" has been in operation for 90 years and is the largest ammunition factory in the region. The factory employs 600-700 w

6. (SBU) "Prvi Partizan" is a subcontractor for ammunition supplies to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and was visited by a EUCOM team in May (refs

Comment

7. (SBU) The explosion was both a human tragedy and a blow to Serbia's efforts to tout its arms industry internationally. End Comment.
BRUSH